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TESTIMONY AGAINST THE TRANSPORTATION OF DEADLY NUCLEAR WASTE TO
YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA

Good Evening. My name is Terri Williams. I served as the Mayor of Webster Groves from 1994 -1998. I am currently the Executive Director of the Webster Groves Area Chamber of Commerce, serving the cities of Webster Groves, Shrewsbury, Rock Hill, and Marlborough.

February 6th, 1996, the Webster Groves City Council passed a resolution that called for, among other things, "a written description, with citations, of Federal regulations which would authorize and justify the routing of high level radioactive waste shipments through highly populated metropolitan areas."

Residents and businesses recognized then, as they do now, the folly of such a dangerous undertaking. The concept of shipping high level nuclear waste across the country, through heavily populated communities filled with businesses, schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and homes, begs the question: "Are you people really serious?" To realize that our Federal agencies have been working on this since the Nuclear Waste Policy Act was passed in 1982, is a shameful and sad state of affairs. For the Federal government to accept responsibility for the messes of a private industry is ludicrous. To endanger mass numbers of people is unjust.

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One would think that sometime during the last 18 years someone at the DOE would have had the courage to stand up to the electrical utility industry and explain that a plan to ship deadly waste to bury underneath a mountain in Nevada is not only stupid, but very dangerous. Have not the congress and our own Senator Kit Bond, and the DOE ever heard of train crashes, highway accidents, explosions, terrorism, and sabotage? You can reassure us all you want that everything will be okay, but as someone who has worked in local government I know mistakes can and most certainly do happen.

Yucca Mountain is not the answer to the nightmare that the electric utilities and the nuclear research and weapons industry has created. Burying wastes in a "permanent repository"

that may well be geologically problematic is stupid and dangerous. The only answer is obvious: **THE WASTES MUST BE KEPT ON SITE. THESE SITES SHOULD BE**

TURNED INTO FORTRESSES SURROUNDED BY A NO MANS LAND. THE SECOND AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP THAT MUST BE TAKEN IS THAT THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY SHOULD CEASE AND DESIST MANUFACTURING ELECTRIC POWER UTILIZING NUCLEAR COMPONENTS. The two steps are reason-

able and do-able. If the repository is allowed to be built, and routes permanently established to allow unending shipments of high level deadly waste, what incentive does the electrical industry have to use alternative energy?

Our communities and our country is filled with intelligent, bright people. Why have the DOE or the electrical utilities been unable to find anyone who can assist them with research and development of alternative, safe, and sustainable forms of energy? Of course this is a rhetorical question. A spokesperson from Ameren UE answered this best when she told me in 1993 when I

asked her why UE was not looking at solar power as an option. She simply said that if they did that, then just anyone could harness the sun.

4 | You have a responsibility to the citizens in this country , not to the nuclear and electrical utility lobbies who buy the elections of our congress people, who are waiting to act upon your recommendation You must tell them three simple things: 1)Shipping the waste is wrong, 2) storing the waste on site is the only logical conclusion, and 3) you are changing your name to the DOAE: the Department of ALTERNATIVE Energy. |

Thank You

RESOLUTION 96-04

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WHEREAS, the City Council of Webster Groves has been advised of legislation pending before the U.S. Congress, HR 1020/S.1271, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1995, which could lead to the transport by railway and highway of shipments of high level radioactive waste from northern, eastern, and southern states through the Metropolitan St. Louis area, including the City of Webster Groves; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, Fire Department, Police Department and Civil Preparedness Coordinator have attempted to inform themselves of the procedures to be used in these shipments and have taken all available precautions within their power, and

WHEREAS, in spite of assurances by responsible federal and state officials that shipment procedures are safe, there remain questions still unanswered regarding these procedures. It is clear that the shipment of nuclear waste materials through the City of Webster Groves represents an undesirable risk in the event of a catastrophic and unpredictable railway or highway accident; and

WHEREAS, the City of Webster Groves is without sufficient emergency personnel, equipment and financial resources to safeguard its residents in the event of a major nuclear transport accident;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Webster Groves informs the Missouri Congressional delegation, the Missouri Governor, and the State of Missouri's Department of Public Safety, that;

1. The City of Webster Groves formally requests that no shipment of irradiated fuel rods be routed through the Metropolitan St. Louis Area, including Webster Groves, until a deep-geologic repository is available for the permanent disposal of these long lived radioactive wastes.
2. The City of Webster Groves also requests from the responsible federal agencies a written description, with citations, of Federal Regulations which would authorize and justify the routing of high level radioactive waste shipments through highly populated metropolitan areas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Webster Groves cannot and will not accept liability for a risk of this magnitude for its residents or their properties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Acting City Manager is directed to provide copies of this Resolution to the appropriate state and federal agencies and to the Missouri members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and to the Governor of Missouri.

Adopted this 6th day of February, 1996.


MAYOR

AFFEST:


CITY CLERK